(ii) The major air and water polluting industries in Delhi have been identified.

(iii) Industries are to comply with the standards laid by installation of pollution control equipment within a stipulated time-frame and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(iv) A network of water quality monitoring stations have been set up to monitor the water quality of the River Yamuna at various points of effluent discharge and ambient air quality monitoring stations in areas with high industrial and traffic density.

(v) A number of schemes for construction/augmentation of sewerage and sewage treatment plants for treatment of domestic wastes are under implementation.

(vi) Combined Effluent Treatment Plan (CETPs) for treating effluents from clusters of water polluting industries has been taken up.

(vii) All the three thermal power plants in Delhi have installed electrostatic precipitators, for control of emissions.

(viii) For control of vehicular pollution, gross and mass emission standards have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(ix) The Delhi Administration is implementing a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emission from its buses. This action plan consists of:

(1) Reducing smoke emission by tuning vehicle engines. Of the 3627 vehicles checked, 3624 vehicles have already been cleared/rectified to adhere to the prescribed norms.

(2) Acquiring new buses for replacement of over-aged buses from the active fleet. 500 such buses have already been phased out.

(3) Reducing over-loading.

(4) Equipping the test units with smoke meters for monitoring the smoke levels of the fleet held at the units. Vehicles are being checked at a periodicity of six months.

(c) Prosecution are launched against defaulters. From April 1992 to June 1993, a total of 8988 buses operating under State Transport Authority were checked and owners of 3046 buses were prosecuted.

Forest cover in Kerala

204. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum forest cover required as per the norms laid down by the Government of India;

(b) what was the percentage of forest cover at the time of formation of the Kerala State; and

(c) what is the percentage of forest cover in Kerala at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The National Forest Policy, 1988 advocates that a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country should be under forest or tree cover.

(b) The percentage of actual forest cover of Kerala at the time of formation of the State is not available as assessment of forest cover by visual interpretation of satellite imagery in the country was initiated since the eighties. However, as per information available the percentage of all types of forests in the State including private forests (by legal status) was 29.1% at the time of formation of the state. The percentage of forest area under the Forest Department during the period was 23.3%.

(c) The percentage of actual forest cover in Kerala at present is 26.5% (as

per State of Forest Report, 1991) and that of recorded forest area is 28.9%.

Japan's assistance for completing forest projects

205. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in February 1994 Japan announced to provide assistance amounting to crores of rupees for completing the forest projects in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what is the quantum of this amount together with the names of the forest projects on which the same would be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A Fact Finding Mission of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan held a meeting in New Delhi on 4th February, 1994 with the representatives of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Environment and Forests to discuss the feasibility of a forestry project of Himachal Pradesh. The OECF, Japan did not indicate any commitment for providing assistance for the project.

Constitution of Paryavaran Vahinis in Gujarat

206. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts in Gujarat where Paryavaran Vahinis have been constituted so far;

(b) the details of the work undertaken and the success achieved so far;

(c) the assistance provided by the Central Government to the Gujarat State for this purpose, district-wise;

(d) whether more districts are proposed to be included under this scheme for the protection of environment and forests;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Paryavaran Vahinis have been constituted in three districts out of the four districts selected in Gujarat so far.

(b) No specific report has been received about the details of the work undertaken so far.

(c) Financial assistance given to the State Government district-wise is as follows:—

Ahmedabad	Rs. 57,500
Valsad.....	Rs. 57,500
Vadodara.....	Rs. 57,500
Dangs	Rs. 23,500

in Dangs the second instalment has not been released as the Vahini is yet to be constituted.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The additional districts would be selected on the basis of incidence of pollution and density of forests and tribal population.

(f) Does not arise.

Pollution in Rivers

207. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the small and big rivers, including the Yamuna, flowing through the West Uttar Pradesh, are heavily polluted by the untreated effluents being discharged into these rivers by the industrial units, especially the sugar mills, distilleries, paper mills and chemical factories;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the water of these rivers has become unusable for drinking as well as